

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TIJUAN 00099 180144Z
ACTION SCS-06

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FM AMCONSUL TIJUANA
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
SECSTATE WASHDC 2279

UNCLAS TIJUANA 0099

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC SWEL MX
SUBJ: MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AMERICANS IN MEXICO

1. BAJA CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR ROBERTO DE LA MADRID TOLD US FEBRUARY 16 THAT MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HEALTH AUTHORITIES WILL SOON APPROACH APPROPRIATE US HEALTH AUTHORITIES (HE UNABLE BE MORE SPECIFIC) TO URGE THAT COVERAGE OF US PARTICIPANTS IN PRIVATE MEDICAL PLANS BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE HOSPITALIZATION IN MEXICO. MEXICAN HOSPITAL SYSTEMS WHICH WOULD PARTICIPATE ARE 1) INSTITUTO MEXICANO DEL SEGURO SOCIAL, 2) CENTRO DE SALUD URBANO, AND 3) INSTITUTO DE SEGURIDAD Y SERVICIOS SOCIALES PARA TRABAJADORES DEL ESTADO.

2. BASIC PURPOSE THIS PROPOSAL IS TO PROVIDE QUALITY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR AMERICANS WHO ARE INJURED IN ACCIDENTS IN MEXICO OR BECOME ILL. AT PRESENT TIME BAJA CALIFORNIA LEGAL CODE REQUIRES THAT PERSONS HURT IN ACCIDENTS BE PUT INTO SPECIFIC COMMUNITY HOSPITALS WHICH GENERALLY OF LOW QUALITY AND WHICH REQUIRE CASH PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL SERVICE. DE LA MADRID'S PROPOSAL WOULD ALLOW AMERICANS ENTER HIGHER QUALITY HOSPITALS AND AT SAME TIME RELIEVE OFTEN INTENSE PRESSURE FOR QUICK RETURN TO UNITED STATES.

3. WE FORESEE MANY PROBLEMS IN WORKING OUT THIS KIND OF ARRANGEMENT. IN AT LEAST THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE TO AMERICANS WHO RE-
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QUIRE URGENT HOSPITALIZATION. WE HOPE READERS WITH AN INTEREST IN IMPROVING PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES TO AMERICANS ABROAD WILL PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE SUPPORT WHEN MEXICAN AUTHORITIES FORMALLY PRESENT THEIR PROPOSAL TO US OFFICIALS.
KENT

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